A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *Newſ-Writers* and *Petty-Stateſmen*, of all Sides.

Tueſday, February 13. 1705.

I Am ſtill on the Ungrateful Subject of Preſſing our Men, whether Seamen, or no, into the Publick Service.

I muſt ſay, even the worſt Method I ever heard of practis'd in *France*, does not equal it; at leaſt 'tis practis'd there by the Civil Magiſtrate, and the Men are ſent to at their Dwellings, and oblig'd, by quite another ſort of force, to obey.

But to ſurprize Men, going along the Streets about their lawful Occaſions, to drag them out of Churches, or at leaſt from the Church Doors, to take Men from their Civil Employments, that never were at Sea in their Lives, and know not what belongs to it; to Preſs Maſters of Shops, Farms, and Families; (not to ſay Miniſters from the Pulpit, for that's a piece of Villany by it ſelf, and which the Law will take due Cogniſance of in time, to the Infamy and Reproach of the Actors) to ſeize Men thus, I ſay, in the midſt of their Callings and Employments, with a Violence more than barbarous, not permitting them to ſend their Friends word where they are, or what is become of them; but leave them diſtracted and frighted for Fathers, Husbands, or Sons. This is a Grievance to be puniſh'd by the Judge; 'tis a Shame to a well regulated Government, and merits well the Conſideration of thoſe Guardians of the Peoples Liberties, to whom it is hereby, and ought to be repreſented.

How eaſie a Matter is it to have a fair Enquiry made into the Circumſtances of every Man that is thus ſeiz'd for the Publick Service? and let the Law, and the Magiſtrate judge between the Queen and her Subjects as they ought to do, which is the Cauſe, the Reaſon, and the End, both of Law and Magiſtrates; Why ſhould not a poor Subject have a Right of Appeal for his Liberty, as well as a Rich one for his Eſtate? Why ſhould a Brute, a meer Tarr, a Drunken Sailor, judge by the force of his Cudgel, who is, or is not fit for the Publick Service at Sea?

A Legal Enquiry can be no damage to the Sevice; I muſt ſay, a Legal Enquiry would bring out the Seamen who lurk in private, and there would be no occaſion of this Violence.

But as it is a legal Enquiry into the Qualification of Perſons, and to ſee who are fit, and who are not fit to ſerve, can be no Diſparagement, no Reproach to the Service; on the contrary, 'tis more Reproach to the whole Nation, to ſee Families numerous in Children Starving and Mourning, the Husband and Father, by whoſe Labour they liv'd, being drag'd from the Loom, or from the Trowel, to the Fleet, and forc'd to quit the Induſtrious Care of providing for his Family to Fight at Sea, where, perhaps, he never was in his Life.

Innumerable Instances of Barbarities and Insolencies committed daily in the Streets and Neighbourhood of this City, might fill up many of these Papers; but as the Design is not to blacken our Native Country, so I content my self with saying just so much as serves to move those whose proper Business it is, either to prevent Pressing at all; *which, with submission, I think easie*, or else so to regulate the Intollerable Abuses in the Practice of it by the Seamen, that Innocent Men may not be oblig'd *to lessen their Numbers in their own Defence*——

I am Confirm'd in my Just Complaint of this Grievance, when I hear from Abroad, how our Enemies, the *French*, value themselves upon our Difficulties, and Insult the *English*, by boasting what Difficulties they find to Man their Navy, and with what Reluctance the Seamen are brought to serve; how scarce the Seamen are, and how the *English* are fain to use all sorts of Violence to force Men on Board their Ships; and for want of Seamen, are fain to fill up their Ships with Plowmen, Weavers, Bricklayers, Butchers, and all sorts of Handycrafts-men, at which their Wives and Families, who are left to Starve, make Perpetual and Incessant Clamours against the Government.

What can serve more to animate the Enemies Subjects, and Encourage their People to Enter into their Armies, in hopes the War will the sooner end, by how much their Enemies, the *English*, appear to be reduc'd to such Streights, and to be in such want of Men.

And the worst Misfortune of all is, that *the Matter of Fact cannot be denied*, but the Truth of it stands as an Unhappy Article, which, tho' it does not really begin in the want of Men, or Distress of our Case, yet it too justly gives them Opportunity to make that use of it.

Nor am I backward to say, it does not arise from any Necessity we have to use this Violence, but that suitable Measures being taken, we are yet full enough of Men, to answer all our Publick Occasion and Service, and of such Men, as might upon *Easie and Honourable Conditions*, be brought rather to *seek the Service*, than avoid it.

This Work being near an End, I close it with this Subject, and heartily wish to see the Grievance rectified, that the Violence and Blood, with which our Streets are fill'd, may cease, and the just Defence of the Nation may not be a Service Grievous to the Subject, and made more Hateful to them by a Needless, as well as Unjust Force.

Advice from the Scandal. Club.

'TIS high time for Mr. *Review* to have done Writing; and you see, Gentlemen, what a Poor Author is like to come to, for Answering of Questions; and *Madam*, or *Sir*, whoever you are that sent the Society the first Letter about *your Dull Lover*, we think you are oblig'd in Honour to defend us from the fury of this Bloody Enemy. Is this the Gentleman that Subscrib'd to his Mistress, *Your Eternity Adorer*, that wrote neither good *Latin*, good Sence, nor good *English*? It can never be! 'Tis impossible! for behold what Terrible *Latin* he can Write when he is Angry!

Impudentissimi,

Me Generosum esse quem indignissime abusi estis (Rev. 86.) *hæc vos est certiores facere, & quoque me non ex Ovidio de Arte amandi hos Versus scripsisse, ut dicetis, sed egomet composui; & si verum dubitatis, invenietis in Epigrammata Oweni, si vobis inspicere placet; ergo, uno verbo, Dii me periant, si non (ni mihi Gratiam publicè quam citissimè supplicatis) vestri Authoris Caput evellam. Nam Heroina se me non nupturam jurat; & si non, per De—, Authoris Sanguinem habebo, nam ne quid minus sufficiet nec placebit,*

Dabam. 2 Jan. *Vobis Inimico,*

An. Dom. 1705. Schem. Darby.

This Letter the Society, least they should take it wrong, resolv'd to take both *in Earnest*, and *in Jest*, and order'd it, however, to be put into *English*, as follows.

Most Impudent,

I'*M a Gentleman, whom you have most basely Abus'd*, (Review N. 86.) *These are therefore to inform you, That I did not take those Verses out of* Ovid de Arte Amandi, *as you affirm; but compos'd 'em my self; and if you doubt the Truth of my Assertion, if you please to consult* Owen's *Epigrams, there you'll find 'em. Therefore in a word, the Gods confound me, if I don't pull your Author's*

Head

Head off, unless I have a publick and speedy Satisfaction. For the Lady swears she will not have me; and if she will not, by G—d, I'll have your Author's Blood; for nothing less will satisfie me, or make an Atonement to

Your Declar'd Enemy,
Schem. Darby.

Upon the reading the Letter, the Author of this Paper being call'd in, desir'd that the Gentleman should be Enquir'd of as follows.

1. Whether in his Letter he is in Jest, or in Earnest? And in either Case replies? If the first, he must be a Fool; if the last, a Villain; and they resolve to Treat him as both.

2. When this Murther is to be committed? And whether in the Dark, or by Daylight? If he will Kill him by Daylight, the Author Answers, *But he won't let him*; and let's him know, he always goes provided to defend himself; if in the Dark, *'Ware Rogue*; let him have a care he don't catch a Tartar.

3. What he is angry with the Author for, since, as to his Mistress, she declar'd before her Aversion to him, and desir'd Advice how to be rid of of him.

4. It seems we are to give this Gentleman a speedy and publick Satisfaction; in order to prevent farther Mischief, and that this may be done, the Society desire him to put on his Spectacles, and look back upon the *Review*, and tell them where they ever said he had those Senceless Lines out of *Ovid de Arte Amandi*, not one Word to that purpose being Printed.

5. Whether he thinks the Gallows be *the Shortest Way* to obtain his Mistress, since that will certainly be at the end of his *Latin* Letter put into *English*.

6. They desire him to Inform them, if they are to be found in *Owen*'s Epigrams, how he compos'd them himself? When these Contradictions are reconcil'd, they give him to understand, the Author is at his Service, and he may pull his Head off at his Leisure. Mean time the Author farther tells him, he knows him, and will take Effectual Care to use him as he deserves.

Upon Answering these Queries, the Author promises to give the Gentleman all possible Satisfaction, and as frequent Opportunities, *to pull his Head off*, as he can desire; and in the mean time, gives him his humble Thanks for telling him so fairly what he must expect, that he may the better prepare for it.

THE Question in the following Letter, had with it a pressing Article for an Answer, as of greater Moment than we could be apprehensive of at first reading.

It is impossible for the Society to guess the meaning of the Parties, nor do they desire to search any farther than the Querist desires they should know, and therefore they desire to Answer the Question in the Literal Sence, as it lies before them; if any Ill is intended, they refer it to the Contrivers, and fear not their being concern'd in it.

Gentlemen,

HEre is a *Person in Town, under present Necessity of taking a long Journey. There are two ways leading to his Journeys End; and let him go either of these, he is sure of Company. But then, as these ways are much unlike, so are the Passengers that Travel them. The one way is good, but the Company not so good; the other bad, but the Company not so bad. Now here's the Difficulty: The Season you know is Cold: If he choose the worst way, his Health is endangered, tho' he keep the better Company; and if he choose the worse Company, he is in danger from Them, tho' he take the better way. He is to set out next Week, and desires your Opinion, which of the Ways he had best choose.*

Without Question, the worst way with the best Company, rather than the best Way with the worst Company, is to be prefer'd by a Wise Man, and the Literal Sence of the Case implies it; for that one may indanger his Health, the other his Mind; one his Body, the other his Soul.

But the Society observ'd here, that the Letter does not say he is oblig'd to Company in either of these Ways; and therefore recommend it to his Consideration, Whether since he cannot have the best Company without the worst Way, whether he cannot have the best Way without the Company; since, next to good Company, no Company is best.

MR. *R. R.* who sent the Author a Letter relating to the Treaty of Partition, and the present Parliament, is desir'd to take Notice, That the House of Commons are *able to ask Questions for themselves*; and desires to know what he would call the Author, if he should give an Answer to that Question, *before the House is up*

A Gentleman who sent a Letter Sign'd *W.* relating to the Subscription to a Book, call'd, *Jure Divino*, enquiring of its Welfare, and when it will be Printed; is hereby informed, That Book is now Perfecting for the Press; and having been stop'd on an Extraordinary occasion, shall, without fail, be put to the Press by the middle of *March*; and the Author hopes to have it ready to deliver to the Subscribers by the end of *April* at farthest.

A Certain Letter being sent to the Author of this Paper, out of *Southwark*, with the Character of three Persons in it, the Gentlemen are desir'd to send Word to Mr. *Matthews*, where a Letter may be directed to them, the Author being willing to oblige them in their Request.

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